

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application, claims 4-6 are withdrawn from consideration in response to the Election of Species Requirement and claims 1-3 and 7-9 stand rejected.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2 and 7-8 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over TeleChem, in view of Lord (US 4,442,852) in further view of Ferrell (US 5,505,785). Applicants traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

The Examiner contends TeleChem discloses most of the features recited in claim 1, but concedes TeleChem fails to disclose “a clean container for containing cleaning solution or that the ultrasonic vibration generator that is composed of a vibrator is provided with an internal room formed between the bottom of the cleaning container in the bottom of the external box, and secured to the outer bottom of the cleaning container; and an oscillator that is electrically connected with this vibrator and placed outside the external box.” (*Office Action*, p. 3).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that TeleChem, taken alone or in combination with Ferrell and Lord, fails to disclose, at least, “a support member placed on the bottom of the cleaning container for supporting the fixing member” or “wherein the supporting member supports the fixing member above the cleaning solution such that a stylus portion of the probe pin is immersed in the cleaning solution,” as recited in claim 1.

In particular, TeleChem’s fixing member (*see* p.4) is not fixed above the cleaning solution, rather, TeleChem’s pins are placed in a floatable pin cleaning rack. (p. 3, fig. 2). As illustrated in figure 2, this floating pin cleaning rack floats on the surface of the cleaning solution. Consequently, there is no supporting member which supports the floatable pin cleaning rack above the cleaning solution. Additionally, because the pin cleaning rack is floatable, it is

not placed on the bottom of the cleaning container. Furthermore, because Ferrell and Lord fail to disclose any supporting member which supports a fixing member above a cleaning solution, even if TeleChem, Ferrell and Lord are combined as suggested by the Examiner, the suggested combination fails to disclose all the features recited in claim 1.

In the Response to Arguments section of this Office Action, the Examiner contends:

TeleChem teaches in Figures 1-2 that the legs of the support member hold the fixing member above the bottom of the tank. Furthermore, the tank is capable of holding a cleaning solution at a lower level than the fixing member. Therefore, TeleChem teaches that the support member supports the fixing member above the cleaning solution so that a stylus portion of the probe pin is immersed in the cleaning solution.

(Office Action, p.2).

Applicants disagree with the Examiner's position because Figure 1 shows the alleged fixing member before it is immersed in an ultrasonic bath. Regarding figure 2, Telechem expressly discloses that the floatable pin cleaning rack is placed in a bath containing one-liter of a liquid. Further, Telechem discloses that the rack will float in the one-liter volume of H<sub>2</sub>O, and further, expressly cautions against using cleaning volumes less than one liter to avoid damaging the ultrasonic bath. (p. 3). Consequently, the Examiner's position with wholly unsupported.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 it is allowable for at least this reason. Additionally, Applicants submit claims 2 and 7-8 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

**Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

The Examiner rejected claim 3 and 9 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over TeleChem in view of Ferrell and Lord, and in further view of Jackson (David P. Jackson, *Centrifugal Shear Carbon Dioxide Cleaning* (Precision Cleaning '95 Proceedings).

Applicants respectfully submit because Jackson, either taken alone or in combination with TeleChem, Ferrell and Lord, fails to compensate for the TeleChem/Ferrell/Lord combination as applied to claim 1, claims 3 and 9 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency.

**Conclusion**

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

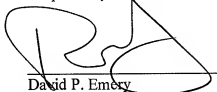
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Respectfully submitted,

  
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David P. Emery  
Registration No. 55,154

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